

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

OMMIE JOHN MICHAEL WILLIAMS, JR.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:19-CV-690-ECM
	)	
MATTHEW G. STEVENS, et al.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Ommie John Michael Williams, Jr., an indigent pre-trial detainee, initiated the instant 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action on September 19, 2019. In this civil action, Williams challenges the constitutionality of actions taken against him at the time of his arrest. Doc. 1 at 2–3.

On November 6, 2019, the court issued an order, a copy of which the Clerk mailed to Williams. The postal service returned this document because Williams no longer resided at the last address he had provided for service.<sup>1</sup> The order of procedure entered in this case ordered Williams to “immediately inform the court and the defendants . . . of any change in his address. Failure to provide a correct address to this court within ten (10) days following any change of address will result in the dismissal of this action. The plaintiff shall also diligently and properly prosecute this action or face the possibility it will be dismissed for failure to prosecute.” Doc. 4 at 4, ¶8. The docket maintained in this case indicates that Williams received a copy of this order.

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<sup>1</sup>The last address provided to the court by the plaintiff is the Geneva County Jail.

Based on the foregoing, the court entered an order requiring Williams to inform the court of his current address on or before December 2, 2019. Doc. 12 at 2. This order directed Williams to “show cause why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to comply with the orders of this court and his failure to adequately prosecute this action.” Doc. 12 at 2. The court “specifically cautioned [Williams] that if he fails to respond to this order the Magistrate Judge will recommend that this case be dismissed due to his failure to keep the court apprised of his current address and because, in the absence of such, this case cannot proceed before this court in an appropriate manner.” Doc. 12 at 2. As of the present date, Williams has failed to provide the court with his current address pursuant to the directives of the orders entered in this case. The court therefore concludes that this case should be dismissed.

The court has reviewed the file to determine whether a less drastic measure than dismissal is appropriate. *See Abreu-Velez v. Board of Regents of Univ. System of Georgia*, 248 F. App’x 116, 117–18 (11th Cir. 2007). After such review, the court finds that dismissal of this case is the proper course of action. Initially, the court notes that Williams is an indigent individual and the imposition of monetary or other punitive sanctions against him would be ineffectual. Moreover, Williams has failed to comply with the directives of the orders entered by this court regarding provision of a current address. It likewise appears that Williams is simply no longer interested in the prosecution of this case and any additional effort to secure his compliance would be unavailing and a waste of this court’s

scarce resources. Finally, this case cannot properly proceed when Williams' whereabouts are unknown.

Accordingly, the court concludes that Williams' failure to comply with the orders of this court warrant dismissal of this case. *Moon v. Newsome*, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that, as a general rule, where a litigant has been forewarned dismissal for failure to obey a court order is not an abuse of discretion). The authority of courts to impose sanctions for failure to prosecute or obey an order is longstanding and acknowledged by Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629–30 (1962). This authority empowers the courts “to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.” *Id.* at 630–31; *Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla.*, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that a “district court possesses the inherent power to police its docket.”). “The sanctions imposed [upon dilatory litigants] can range from a simple reprimand to an order dismissing the action with or without prejudice.” *Id.*

For the above stated reasons, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be dismissed without prejudice.

On or before **January 30, 2020**, the parties may file objections to the Recommendation. A party must specifically identify the factual findings and legal conclusions in the Recommendation to which the objection is made. Frivolous, conclusive, or general objections to the Recommendation will not be considered.

Failure to file written objections to the proposed factual findings and legal conclusions set forth in the Recommendations of the Magistrate Judge shall bar a party from a *de novo* determination by the District Court of these factual findings and legal conclusions and shall “waive the right to challenge on appeal the District Court’s order based on unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions” except upon grounds of plain error if necessary in the interests of justice. 11TH Cir. R. 3-1; *see Resolution Trust Co. v. Hallmark Builders, Inc.*, 996 F.2d 1144, 1149 (11th Cir. 1993) (“When the magistrate provides such notice and a party still fails to object to the findings of fact [and law] and those findings are adopted by the district court the party may not challenge them on appeal in the absence of plain error or manifest injustice.”); *Henley v. Johnson*, 885 F.2d 790, 794 (11th Cir. 1989).

Done this 16th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Stephen M. Doyle  
STEPHEN M. DOYLE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE